

**Amendments to the Specification:*****Please amend the second paragraph, page 2 as follows:***

Blood exiting drip hole 212 indicates insertion sheath 102 has just penetrated blood vessel 302. To ensure proper placement of structure, insertion sheath 102 and dilator 202 are backed out of the vessel until blood stops flowing from drip hole 212. Next, insertion sheath 102 and dilator 202 are re-inserted in blood vessel 302 until blood starts flowing from drip hole 212. Proper depth of penetration and location of the assembly is established by continuing to insert [[and]] an additional distance, for example, a doctor would insert the assembly 1 to 2 centimeters for the femoral artery. Once properly installed, the vascular seal or vascular tool can be inserted via insertion sheath 102 and introduced to blood vessel 302.

***Please amend the second paragraph, page 4 as follows:***

The present invention will now be described with reference to FIGS. 4-9C. Referring to FIG. 4, an assembly 400 consistent with the present invention is shown. Assembly 400 includes an insertion sheath 402 and a dilator 404. Insertion sheath 402 includes a sheath distal end 406 and a sheath proximate end 408. Dilator 404 includes a dilator distal end 410 and a dilator proximate end 412. Insertion sheath 402 and dilator 404 are coupled using a conventional mating 414. Similar to conventional assemblies (described above), dilator distal end 410 contains an inlet port 416, and dilator proximate end 412 contains a drip hole 418. Inlet port 416 and drip hole 418 are in fluid communication via a first lumen (not shown) in dilator 404 or the like. Unlike conventional assemblies, however, assembly 400 contains [[a]] an over insertion indication port 420 located in sheath distal end 406, and an over insertion drip hole 422 located in dilator proximate end 412 (as shown). Over insertion indication port 420 and over insertion

drip hole 422 are in fluid communication via a second lumen 424 (shown in phantom) that exists separate from the first lumen. Inlet port 416 and over insertion indication port 420 can be located a predetermined distance TF to indicate assembly 400 has been inserted too far. While drip hole 418 and over insertion drip hole 422 are shown arranged sequentially for when blood would flow, alternative arrangements are possible. Also, while over insertion drip hole 422 is shown arranged on dilator proximate end 412, over insertion drip hole 422 could be arranged on sheath proximate end 408, which may actually facilitate manufacturing of assembly 400.

*Please amend the first paragraph, page 5 as follows:*

In use, assembly 400 would first be inserted until vessel penetration was indicated, as with the prior art device above. Using the prior art device, care must be exercised during reinsertion of the assembly approximately 1 to 2 centimeters to ensure it is not over inserted. Using assembly 400, however, over insertion indicator port 420 would provide over insertion indication when blood begins flowing from over insertion drip hole 422. Thus, thereby assisting proper location of assembly 400 and avoiding over insertion. Distance TF could be selected to provide indication that assembly 400 is about to be over inserted (*i.e.*, blood flows from over insertion drip hole 422 prior to over insertion) or to provide indication that over insertion just occurred (*i.e.*, blood flows from over insertion drip hole 422 at or just after over insertion).